

# BWB Awarding Organisations

Understanding awarding organisations (AOs) and their regulation is a specialist area of law. BWB is one of the few law firms with a dedicated team providing legal services to these bodies. We understand the business behind developing and awarding prestigious qualifications, as well as the often complex corporate structures and highly regulated aspects of an AO's business. We pride ourselves on being thought leaders in this sector and are closely involved with the implementation of the T levels and apprenticeships regimes.

As a full service firm, with highly-ranked Public and Regulatory, Education, Charity and Social Enterprise departments (among others), we are uniquely positioned to advise AOs on a broad range of regulatory, procurement-related, corporate, commercial, education, property, governance, charity, IP, IT and contentious issues, including judicial review and appeals to the First Tier Tribunal. Particular specialist advice includes:

- Ofqual regulation, including the imposition of sanctions
- Regulation by and other relationships with other regulators and public bodies
- Procurement law
- Consortia arrangements
- Merging Ofqual-regulated organisations
- Corporate structures
- Challenge to regulatory decisions by Judicial Review and/or in the First Tier Tribunal
- Equality law
- Handling malpractice and maladministration
- Handling complaints and appeals
- Safeguarding matters
- Disputes between awarding organisations and centres
- Education law and advice
- Qualifications being provided overseas
- Governance and policy reviews
- Managing non-compliant centres
- Real Estate issues and transactions
- Funding arrangements
- Competition matters
- Intellectual property issues
- Centre agreements
- GDPR and data sharing
- Employment law
- Responding to whistle blowers

## Examples of recent work

- Advising on management of Adverse Effects and the regulatory consequences including sanctions (Ofqual, Charity Commission and other regulators)
- Supporting implementation of the Skills Plan (T levels and apprenticeships)
- Acquisition of an AO by another AO
- Consortia arrangements
- Advice on GDPR
- Governance and policy reviews
- Advising a number of AOs on their operations outside of England and Wales and guiding AOs through the dos and don'ts of operating overseas, including which qualifications are and aren't regulated
- Advising on potential 'gig economy' issues in contracts with examiners and assessors
- Restructuring awarding activity
- Disputes with third party contractors (including centres)

**BWB has special discounted rates available to members of the Federation of Awarding Bodies.** Please contact Emma (overleaf) for details.

We also provide training on pertinent legal issues through FAB. Please see their website, and ours, for more details.

“ Emma Dowden-Teale is 'someone in whom clients feel complete confidence', standing out for her niche expertise in awarding body regulation  
Legal 500 2017

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## PRIMARY CONTACT



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